

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 01114 141617Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 ACDA-10
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O R 141449Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4888
INFO /AMEMBASSY AMMAN 9310
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, IS, US, EC

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR DINITZ RETURNS TO ISRAEL

1. SEVERAL ISRAELI PAPERS NOTED THE RETURN TO JERUSALEM FROM WASHINGTON OF AMBASSADOR DINITZ AND REPORTED HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE FEBRUARY 13 CABINET MEETING. MORE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE THAN IN OTHER PAPERS WAS GIVEN BY THE JERUSALEM POST IN THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE, HEADLINED " 'FULL UNDERSTANDING' FROM U.S. LEADERS, SAYS DINITZ." BEGIN TEXT: U.S. PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER AND VICE-PRESIDENT WALTER MONDALE HAVE NOT YET FORMULATED ANY DEFINITE PLANS FOR HANDLING THE MIDDLE EAST DISPUTE AND WILL ONLY GET DOWN TO CONCRETE TERMS AFTER THE LEADERS OF THE STATES IN THE AREA HAVE VISITED WASHINGTON.

2. REPORTING THIS TO THE CABINET YESTERDAY, WASHINGTON AMBASSADOR SIMHA DINITZ SAID CARTER AND MONDALE STRESSED THAT THEY WOULD WORK HAND IN HAND WITH ISRAEL WHATEVER COURSE THEY DECIDED TO ADOPT.

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3. THE TWO U.S. LEADERS DEMONSTRATED FULL UNDERSTANDING FOR THIS COUNTRY'S SITUATION AND SHOWED EVERY CONCERN FOR ITS SECURITY, DINITZ SAID. THEY HAD ADOPTED A POSITIVE APPROACH TO ISRAEL'S DEMANDS ABOUT SOUTHERN LEBANON, ON INCREASING THE AID ALLOCATION TO ISRAEL, AND ON DENYING THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE THE RIGHT TO STAY IN THE U.S., HE

SAID.

4. THE AMERICAN REFUSAL TO SANCTION SALES OF KFIR WARPLANES TO ECUADOR WAS PART OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S GLOBAL POLICY ON REDUCING ARMS SALES TO CERTAIN REGIONS, AND THERE WAS NOTHING ANTI-ISRAEL IN THE STEP, DINITZ SAID. CARTER'S DECISION TO DELAY THE SALE OF THE CLUSTER BOMBS IN ORDER TO REVIEW THE ENTIRE MATTER WAS ALSO PART OF A GLOBAL POLICY, AND NOT INIMICAL IN ANY SENSE, HE SAID.

5. IN BOTH CASES THERE WAS STILL HOPE THAT ISRAEL WOULD FINALLY ATTAIN ITS OBJECTIVE, HE BELIEVED. AS REGARDS CLUSTER BOMBS, HE TOLD THE MINISTERS, THEY HAD NOT BEEN SOLD TO ANY OFREIGN COUNTRY, NOT EVEN IN NATO. THE U.S. ITSELF WAS NOT SURE WHETHER ITS OWN ARMED FORCES SHOULD USE THE WEAPON.

6. ISRAEL'S CASE, DINITZ SAID, WAS THAT IT WAS THE ONLY PURCHASER COUNTRY POTENTIALLY AT WAR. THE CLUSTER BOMB WAS NOT A "DIRTY WEAPON," ISRAEL ARGUED. ITS USER MIGHT BE "DIRTY" IF HE DROPPED THE BOMB ON CIVILIANS, BUT AS IT HAPPENED, ISRAEL NEEDED THE CLUSTER BOMB MOST URGENTLY FOR USE AGAINST A LEGITIMATE MILITARY TARGET--MISSILE BATTERIES.

7. DINITZ SAID THAT HE HAD ORGANIZED 23 CONVERSTATION WITH VARIOUS LEVELS OF THE ADMINISTRATION CONCERNING THE SALE OF KFIR WAR PLANES TO ECUADOR BEFORE THE ADMINISTRATION BANNED THE SALE, AND FIVE CONVERSATIONS AFTER THE BAN. IN UNCLASSIFIED

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ADDITION HE HAD ORGANIZED NUMEROUS CONTACTS IN THE CONGRESSIONAL SPHERE.

8. DINITZ ASSURED MINISTERS THAT ISRAEL ENJOYED JUST AS "INTIMATE" RELATIONS WITH THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION AS WITH ITS PREDECESSORS. THIS ADMINISTRATION STRESSED MORALITY IN FOREIGN RELATIONS, WHETHER IT WAS A MATTER OF SOUTH AFRICA, CHILE, RIGHTS FOR SOVIET JEWRY, PROTECTION OF DISSIDENTS IN COMMUNIST LANDS, OR THE ARMS RACE, DINITZ SAID. ISRAEL MUST GRASP THIS CHARACTERISITC OF THE NEW LEADERSHIP IN WASHINGTON WHEN IT ANALYZED CARTER'S POLICIES AND ACTIONS. END TEXT
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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